



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Division of Medical Assistance**  
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Boston, MA 02111  
[www.mass.gov/dma](http://www.mass.gov/dma)

Eligibility Operations Memo 02-07  
March 1, 2002

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Tom DeVouton, Director, MassHealth Enrollment Center Operations *Tom DeVouton*

RE: **SCHIP and Elimination of Cost Sharing for Native American and Alaska Native Children under MassHealth Family Assistance**

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#### **Introduction**

Eligibility Letter 88 transmitted revised regulations, effective November 1, 2001, to comply with the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) regulations. One of the changes included in the Division's revised regulations was the elimination of cost sharing (premium payments) for those receiving MassHealth Family Assistance who are Alaska Native children and Native American children who are from federally recognized tribes.

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#### **Identifying Native Americans/Alaska Natives**

On April 1, 2002, the Medical Benefit Request (MBR) and Eligibility Review forms (ERVs) will be revised to allow applicants and members to identify themselves as Alaska Natives or members of a federally recognized Native American tribe.

Until these revised forms are effective and MA21 can accept this information, Central Office staff will handle this identification process. Central Office will obtain a report identifying individuals who have declared themselves as Alaska Natives or Native Americans from a federally recognized tribe. Central Office will send a letter to those Native American individuals requesting the name of the tribe of which they are members. This information will be submitted to the Finance Unit who will eliminate any cost sharing (premium payments) imposed on those individuals identified as Alaska Natives or Native Americans from a federally recognized tribe.

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#### **Questions**

Please direct any questions about the information in this memo to the MassHealth Policy Hotline through the designee at your enrollment center.

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